U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPECIES ASSESSMENT AND LISTING PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT FORM

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Cyrtandra kaulantha
COMMON NAME: Ha`iwale
LEAD REGION: Region 1
INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF: August 2005
STATUS/ACTION:
 Species assessment - determined species did not meet the definition of endangered or threatened under the Act and, therefore, was not elevated to Candidate status New candidate
X Continuing candidate
Non-petitioned
X_ Petitioned - Date petition received: May 11, 2004
_ 90-day positive - FR date:
X 12-month warranted but precluded - FR date: May 11, 2005
N Did the petition request a reclassification of a listed species?
FOR PETITIONED CANDIDATE SPECIES:
a. Is listing warranted (if yes, see summary of threats below)? <u>yes</u>b. To date, has publication of a proposal to list been precluded by other higher priority
listing actions? <u>yes</u>
c. If the answer to a. and b. is "yes", provide an explanation of why the action is
precluded. We find that the immediate issuance of a proposed rule and timely
promulgation of a final rule for this species has been, for the preceding 12 months, and
continues to be, precluded by higher priority listing actions. During the past 12 months,
most of our national listing budget has been consumed by work on various listing actions
to comply with court orders and court-approved settlement agreements, meeting statutory
deadlines for petition findings or listing determinations, emergency listing evaluations
and determinations and essential litigation-related, administrative, and program
management tasks. We will continue to monitor the status of this species as new
information becomes available. This review will determine if a change in status is
warranted, including the need to make prompt use of emergency listing procedures. For
information on listing actions taken over the past 12 months, see the discussion of
"Progress on Revising the Lists," in the current CNOR which can be viewed on our Internet website (http://endangered.fws.gov).
Listing priority change
Former LP:
New LP:
Date when the species first became a Candidate (as currently defined): 1999
Candidate removal: Former LP:
A – Taxon is more abundant or widespread than previously believed or not subject to

the degree of threats sufficient to warrant issuance of a proposed listing or
continuance of candidate status.
U - Taxon not subject to the degree of threats sufficient to warrant issuance of a proposed listing or continuance of candidate status due, in part or totally, to conservation efforts that remove or reduce the threats to the species.
F – Range is no longer a U.S. territory.
I – Insufficient information exists on biological vulnerability and threats to support
listing.
M – Taxon mistakenly included in past notice of review.
N – Taxon does not meet the Act's definition of "species."
X – Taxon believed to be extinct.

ANIMAL/PLANT GROUP AND FAMILY: Flowering plants, Gesneriaceae (African violet family)

HISTORICAL STATES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: Hawaii, island of Oahu

CURRENT STATES/ COUNTIES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: Hawaii, island of Oahu

LAND OWNERSHIP: *Cyrtandra kaulantha* is found mostly on State lands with some populations occurring on private lands.

LEAD REGION CONTACT: Paul Phifer, 503-872-2823, paul_phifer@fws.gov

LEAD FIELD OFFICE CONTACT: Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, Christa Russell, 808-792-9400, christa_russell@fws.gov

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

Species Description Cyrtandra kaulantha is a shrub usually with several stems arising from a horizontal stem, 1 to 3 meters (3.3 to 10 feet) long, with short lateral branches that have two or four leaves. Both erect and horizontal stems produce adventitious roots. Leaves are opposite, with each succeeding pair set at right angles to the previous pair. Leaves are clusterd on the upper three to six nodes, thin and papery, oblanceolate to elliptic oblanceolate, 30 to 60 centimeters (12 to 23 inches) long, and 10 to 24 centimeters (4 to 9.5 inches) wide. The upper leaf surface is sparsely pilose along the veins, the lower surface is sparsely appressed short-pilose, hairs on the veins darker brown and longer than those on the surface. Flowers are 7 to 30 in dense compound cymes, with a zygomorphic calyx. The corolla is white, with a narrowly funnelform tube, 17 to 22 millimeters (0.7 to 0.9 inches) long, and has sparse brown hairs. The immature berries are ovoid-ellipsoid and 1.4 to 1.8 centimeters (0.6 to 0.7 inches) long. Immature seeds are 0.3 to 0.5 millimeters (0.01 to 0.02 in) long. The extremely large leaves, basal inflorescences from older stems, short calyx lobes, and puberulent berries distinguish this plant from others in the genus (Wagner *et al.* 1999a).

<u>Taxonomy</u> Cyrtandra kaulantha was described by St. John and Storey (Wagner et al. 1999a), and is of hybrid origin between C. hawaiiensis and C. laxiflora (Smith et al. 1996). This species is recognized as a distinct taxon in Wagner et al. (1999a) and Wagner and Herbst (2003), the most recently accepted Hawaiian plant taxonomy.

<u>Habitat</u> *Cyrtandra kaulantha* is found in moist wooded gulches in dense shade at elevations between 256 to 274 meters (840 to 900 feet) (Wagner *et al.* 1999a).

Historical and Current Range/Current Status This species is known from seven populations currently totaling 23 individuals along the Waiahole Ditch Trail on the island of Oahu. Previously more common, this species has declined in numbers and is extremely threatened (Joel Lau, Hawaii Natural Heritage Program, pers. comm. 1996). Prior to August 2005, the total number of individuals of *Cyrtandra kaulantha* was 37, however 14 plants died when a nonnative tree fell on one population, bringing that population down to six individuals and the total number of individuals for the species to 23. (Ane Bakutis, Oahu Genetic Safety Net Program, pers. comm. 2005).

THREATS:

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range. Cyrtandra kaulantha is threatened by feral pigs (Sus scrofa) that adversely modify habitat (J. Lau, pers. comm. 1996). As early as 1778, European explorers introduced livestock, which became feral, increased in number and range, and caused significant changes to the natural environment of Hawaii. Past and present activities of introduced alien mammals are the primary factor altering and degrading vegetation and habitats on Oahu. The pig is originally native to Europe, northern Africa, Asia Minor, and Asia. European pigs, introduced to Hawaii by Captain James Cook in 1778, became feral and invaded forested areas, especially wet and mesic forests and dry areas at high elevations. They are currently present on Oahu and four other islands, and inhabit rain forests and grasslands. While rooting in the ground in search of the invertebrates and plant material they eat, feral pigs disturb and destroy vegetative cover, trample plants and seedlings, and threaten forest regeneration by damaging seeds and seedlings. They disturb soil and cause erosion, especially on slopes. Alien plant seeds are dispersed on their hooves and coats as well as through their digestive tracts, and the disturbed soil is fertilized by their feces, helping these plants to establish. Pigs are a major vector in the spread of many introduced plant species (Smith 1985; Stone 1985; Medeiros et al. 1986; Scott et al. 1986; Tomich 1986; Cuddihy and Stone 1990; Wagner et al. 1999a). No known conservation measures have been implemented to date to address this threat.

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes. None known.

C. <u>Disease or predation</u>.

Slug damage on the leaves, stems and fruits has been observed by field botanists (John Obata, amateur botanist, pers. comm. 1996). The effect of slugs on the decline of this and related species is unclear, although slugs may pose a threat by feeding on the stems and fruit, thereby, reducing the vigor of the plants and limiting regeneration. Currently, there is no known effective

control method for this threat.

Because Hawaii's native plants evolved without any browsing or grazing mammals present, many lost natural defenses to such impacts (Carlquist 1980, Lamoureux 1994). Browsing by ungulates has been observed on many other native species, including common and rare or endangered species (Cuddihy and Stone 1990; Loope *et al.* 1991). Therefore, even though we have no evidence of browsing for this species, it is likely that pigs impact this species directly as well as their indirect impacts to the surrounding habitat.

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.

Pigs are managed in Hawaii as game animals, but many populate inaccessible areas where hunting is difficult if not impossible, and therefore has little effect on their numbers. Pig hunting is allowed on all islands either year-round or during certain months, depending on the area (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources n.d.-a, n.d.-b, n.d.-c). However, public hunting does not adequately control the number of pigs to eliminate this threat to this native plant species. No known conservation measures have been implemented to date to address this threat.

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Alien plant species threaten *Cyrtandra kaulantha* (Hawaii Natural Heritage Program 2004). In August 2005, a non-native tree fell on the population, destroying 14 individuals (A. Bakutis, pers. comm. 2005).

Although the exact pest species that threaten this plant have not been identified, alien pest plants are found throughout the areas where this species occurs. The original native flora of Hawaii consisted of about 1,400 species, nearly 90 percent of which were endemic. Of the total native and naturalized Hawaiian flora of 1,817 taxa, 47 percent were introduced from other parts of the world, and nearly 100 species have become pests (Smith 1985; Wagner et al. 1999a). Confirmed personal observations (Hawaii Natural Heritage Program 2004; A. Bakutis, pers. comm. 2005) and several studies (Cuddihy and Stone 1990; Wood and Perlman 1997; Robichaux et al. 1998) indicate nonnative plant species may outcompete native plants similar to Cyrtandra kaulantha. Competition may be for space, light, water, or nutrients, or there may be a chemical inhibition of other plants (Smith 1985; Cuddihy and Stone 1990). In addition, nonnative pest plants found in habitat similar to that of this species have been shown to make the habitat less suitable for native species (Smathers and Gardner 1978; Smith 1985; Loope and Medeiros 1992; Medeiros et al. 1992; Ellshoff et al. 1995; Meyer and Florence 1996; Medeiros et al. 1997; Loope et al. 2004). In particular, alien pest plant species modify habitat by modifying availability of light, altering soil-water regimes, modifying nutrient cycling, or altering fire characteristics of native plant communities (Smith 1985; Cuddihy and Stone 1990; Vitousek et al. 1987). Because of demonstrated habitat modification and resource competition by nonnative plant species in habitat similar to the moist wooded gulch habitat of C. kaulantha, the Service believes nonnative plant species are a threat to C. kaulantha. Currently, many widespread alien plant taxa cannot be completely eradicated from Oahu, and therefore are expected to continue dispersing into previously managed areas (Loope 1998, Smith 1985). Nonnative plants are being controlled in one of the seven known populations of this species but the remaining unmanaged

populations of *C. kaulantha* are still impacted by this threat.

Natural hybridization is a potential threat to *Cyrtandra kaulantha*. This species hybridizes with other native species of this genus in the small, localized area where it is known (J. Lau, pers. comm. 1996). It is unknown if the hybrids are sterile and there is no data with that information for these taxa available at this time. Sometimes depressed pollen fertility is observed but it is not always found in putative hybrids. According to Wagner *et al.* (1999a), in general, hybrids are common among *Cyrtandra* species.

In addition, species like *Cyrtandra kaulantha* that are endemic to single small islands are inherently more vulnerable to extinction than widespread species because of the higher risks posed to a few populations and individuals by genetic bottlenecks, random demographic fluctuations and localized catastrophes such as hurricanes. When considered on their own, the natural processes associated with being a single island endemic and the habitat perturbation caused by hurricanes do not affect *Cyrtandra kaulantha* to such a degree that it is threatened or endangered with extinction in the foreseeable future, but these natural processes can exacerbate the threat from anthropogenic factors, such as habitat loss for human development or predation by nonnative species.

Other than nonnative plant control in one of the seven populations of *Cyrtandra kaulantha*, no other conservation measures have been implemented to date to address this threat to the other six populations, or to address the threats to all populations from genetic bottlenecks, random demographic fluctuations, stochastic environmental events such as tree falls and hurricanes, and the potential threat from natural hybridization.

CONSERVATION MEASURES PLANNED OR IMPLEMENTED

The Service is working with a group of interested individuals, organizations, and agencies to protect highly threatened species on Oahu, including *Cyrtandra kaulantha*. The Service has provided funding over the last three years through fiscal year 2006 to collect seeds for genetic storage and for small-scale on-site management to prevent extinction. Collections were made from one individual in 2005 (A. Bakutis pers. comm. 2005).

This species is represented in an *ex situ* collection (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Controlled Propagation Database 2005).

SUMMARY OF THREATS

The major threats to this taxon are pigs, nonnative plant species, and slugs which are believed to be a major cause of the decline of this species throughout its range. Natural hybridization is a potential threat. None of the populations are protected by fences. Nonnative plants have been reduced in only one of the seven known populations. The species as a whole is still impacted by these threats and will require long-term monitoring and management to maintain threat free areas. *Cyrtandra kaulantha* is represented in an *ex situ* collection.

LISTING PRIORITY

THREAT			
Magnitude	Immediacy	Taxonomy	Priority
High	Imminent Non-imminent	Monotypic genus Species Subspecies/population Monotypic genus Species Subspecies/population	1 2* 3 4 5 6
Moderate to Low	Imminent Non-imminent	Monotypic genus Species Subspecies/population Monotypic genus Species Subspecies/population	7 8 9 10 11 12

Rationale for listing priority number:

Magnitude:

This species is highly threatened by slugs that directly prey upon it, pigs that degrade and destroy habitat, competition with nonnative plants, and potentially by cross hybridization. Threats to *Cyrtandra kaulantha* occur throughout its range, and are expected to continue or increase without their control or eradication. Feral pigs have not been fenced. Nonnative plants have been reduced in only one of the seven known populations. As a whole, *C. kaulantha* is still threatened by slugs, pigs and nonnative plants, and potentially threatened by natural hybridization, genetic random demographic fluctuations, and stochastic environmental events such as tree falls and hurricanes, and will require long-term monitoring and management to maintain threat free areas. This species is represented in an *ex situ* collection.

Imminence:

Threats to *Cyrtandra kaulantha* from pigs, slugs, and nonnative plants are imminent because they are ongoing.

Yes Have you promptly reviewed all of the information received regarding the species for the purpose of determining whether emergency listing is needed?

Is Emergency Listing Warranted? No. The species does not appear to be appropriate for emergency listing at this time because the immediacy of the threats is not so great as to imperil a significant proportion of the taxon within the time frame of the routine listing process.

DESCRIPTION OF MONITORING:

Much of the information in this form is based on the results of a meeting of 20 botanical experts held by the Center for Plant Conservation in December of 1995, and was updated by personal

communication with Joel Lau of Hawaii Natural Heritage Program in 1996 and John Obata, highly respected amateur botanist in 1996. We have incorporated additional information on this species from our files and the most recent supplement to the *Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawaii* (Wagner and Herbst 2003). In 2004, the Pacific Islands office contacted the following species experts: Bob Hobdy, retired from Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife; Joel Lau, Hawaii Natural Heritage Program; Art Medeiros, U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline; Hank Oppenheimer, resource manager for Maui Land and Pineapple Company; and Steve Perlman and Ken Wood, National Tropical Botanical Garden. No new information was provided by these individuals and they were not able to clarify the status of these plants in 2004. In 2005 we contacted the species experts listed below and confirmation of the status of *Cyrtandra kaulantha* was provided by Ane Bakutis, Oahu Genetic Safety Net Program.

The Hawaii Natural Heritage Program identified this species as critically imperiled (Hawaii Natural Heritage Program Database 2004). Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red Plant Data Book rarity categories, this species is recognized as Vulnerable (likely to be endangered unless threats to its survival are removed or reduced) by Wagner *et al.* (1999b).

On-the-ground monitoring has been conducted over the past year for this species as part of the Oahu Genetic Safety Net Program, and a species expert has provided new information confirming the status of the species this year and the results are included in this assessment.

COORDINATION WITH STATES:

In October 2004 we provided the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife with copies of our most recent candidate assessments for their review and comment. Vickie Caraway, the State botanist, reviewed the information for this species and provided no additional information or corrections (V. Caraway, pers. comm. 2005).

LITERATURE CITED

List all experts contacted:

Name	Date	Place of Employment
1. Joel Lau	June 28, 2005	Hawaii Natural Heritage Program
2. Art Medeiros	June 28, 2005	U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline
3. Jim Jacobi	June 28, 2005	U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline
4. Rick Warshauer	June 28, 2005	U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline
5. Hank Oppenheimer	June 28, 2005	Maui Land and Pineapple Company
6. Kapua Kawelo	June 28, 2005	U.S. Army
7. Dave Lorence	June 28, 2005	National Tropical Botanical Garden
8. Steve Perlman	June 28, 2005	National Tropical Botanical Garden
9. Ken Wood	June 28, 2005	National Tropical Botanical Garden
10. Ane Bakutis*	August 12, 2005	Oahu Genetic Safety Net Program
11. Vickie Caraway	June 14, 2005	Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife

*Provided new survey or status information on this taxon in 2005

List all databases searched:

Name Date

1. Hawaii Natural Heritage Program 2004

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Controlled Propagation Database 2005

Other resources utilized:

- Carlquist, S. 1980. Hawaii: A natural history, 2nd edition. Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden, Honolulu. 468 pp.
- Center for Biological Diversity, Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. E.O. Wilson, Dr. Paul Ehrlich, Dr. John Terborgh, Dr. Niles Eldridge, Dr. Thomas Eisner, Dr. Robert Hass, Barbara Kingsolver, Charles Bowden, Martin Sheen, the Xerces Society, and the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance. 2004. Hawaiian Plants: petitions to list as federally endangered species. May 4, 2004.
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- Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. N.d.-b. Summary of Title 13, Chapter 123, Game mammal hunting rules, island of Molokai. Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu. 2 pp.
- Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. N.d.-c. Summary of Title 13, Chapter 123, Game mammal hunting rules, island of Maui. Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu. 2 pp.
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- Loope, L.L. 1998. Hawaii and Pacific Islands. Pp. 747-774. In: M.J. Mac, P.A. Opler, C.E. Puckett Haecker, and P.D. Doran (eds.). Status and Trends of the Nation's Biological Resources, Volume 2. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA.
- Loope, L., F. Starr and K. Starr. 2004. Management and research for protecting endangered Hawaiian plant species from displacement by invasive plants on Maui, Hawaii. Weed Technology 18: 1472-1474.
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- Hawaiian Islands. Bishop Mus. Occas. Pap. 48: 23-36.
- Medeiros, A.C., L.L. Loope, T. Flynn, S.J. Anderson, L.W. Cuddihy, and K.A. Wilson. 1992. Notes on the status of an invasive Australian tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*) in Hawaiian rain forests. American Fern Journal 82: 27-33.
- Medeiros, A.C., Jr., L.L. Loope, and R.A. Holt. 1986. Status of native flowering plant specieson the south slope of Haleakala, East Maui, Hawaii. Coop. Natl. Park Resources Stud. Unit, Hawaii, Techn. Rept. 59: 1-230.
- Meyer, J.-Y. and J. Florence. 1996. Tahiti's native flora endangered by the invasion of *Miconia calvescens* D.C. (Melastomataceae). Journal of Biogeography 23: 775-781.
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- Smith, C.W. 1985. Impact of alien plants on Hawai`i's native biota: *in* Stone, C.P., and J.M.Scott (eds.), Hawai`i's Terrestrial Ecosystems: Preservation and Management. Coop. Natl. Park Resources Stud. Unit, Univ. Hawaii, Honolulu, pp. 180-250.
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- Tomich, P.Q. 1986. Mammals in Hawai`i: A synopsis and notational bibliography. BishopMuseum Press, Honolulu. 375 pp.
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- Wood, K.R. and S. Perlman. 1997. Maui 14 plant survey final report. Submitted by National Tropical Botanical Garden, October, 1997.

APPROVAL/CONCURRENCE: Lead Regions must obtain written concurrence from all other Regions within the range of the species before recommending changes to the candidate list, including listing priority changes; the Regional Director must approve all such recommendations. The Director must concur on all 12-month petition findings, additions of species to the candidate list, removal of candidate species, and listing priority changes.

Approve:	Regional Director, Fish and Wildlif	e Service Date						
Manhaup Juste								
Concur:	Director, Fish and Wildlife Service	August 23, 2006 Date						
Do not concur	:	Date						
Date of annual review: <u>September 15, 2005</u> Conducted by: <u>Marie M. Bruegmann, Pacific Islands FWO</u> Plant Recovery Coordinator								
Comments: PIFWO Revie	<u>w</u>							
Reviewed by:	Christa Russell Plant Conservation Program Leader	Date: September 16, 2005						
	Gina Shultz Assistant Field Supervisor, Endangered Species	Date: October 13, 2005						
	Patrick Leonard Field Supervisor	Date: October 13, 2005						